



WINTER NEWS LETTER ★ FEBRUARY, 1950

THE FIVE MAJOR ACTION FIELDS OF CONSERVATION

BY RUTH W. GILMORE

Conservation is a constructive social movement concerned with the application of remedial practices in the use of natural resources for the permanent economic and social stability of all people. There are five major fields of inter-related activity, which everyone has a responsibility to further. They are:

1. **RESEARCH** to determine facts and truths, and to establish methods of procedure. Already, much has been learned about soils, contour farming, forest and watershed management, wild life habitats, stream purifications, disease control, pure food, and accident prevention. Much more needs to be known, to meet the needs of ever-increasing populations. Research is the business of technically trained people, but it is dependent upon public understanding, and appreciation of the facts.

2. **EDUCATION** to give an understanding of the inter-relationships of social, human, and natural resources, in order to secure the necessary support of the people. The conservation movement calls for an enlightened citizenry, because we live in a democratic country and the conservation way of using our "Given-In-Trust" inheritance, is not a thing to be imposed upon a people by an arbitrary ruler. It must be woven by the people, into the fabric of their everyday life. This must be done by all known media of both academic, and informal educational programs. There are two groups to be educated:

First—More than two-thirds of our population is many times removed from producing, or working with, natural resources. This two-thirds is composed of the consumers—the creators of the demand for more and more production of food, clothing, and shelter. All goods, even synthetics, come directly or indirectly from one or more of the natural resources. For Man cannot create matter!

The security and welfare of this group is assured only as long as adequate vegetative covering remains on our watersheds to maintain the necessary water flow for domestic and industrial uses in cities and towns.

Second—The remaining third of our population is composed of those who deal directly with our natural resources in terms of crops from the soil, forest, water, and wildlife—and even the industrialists employing human resources to process natural resources.

The security and welfare of this group depends on

NEW YORK'S WATER SHORTAGE— A CONSERVATION LESSON!

— Wildlife Management Institute —

Shaveless, bathless New Yorkers living on rationed water, are learning a hard lesson in conservation which the rest of the nation might well ponder. Although the situation has been treated with typical American humor in the press and on the radio, it is only superficially funny. Viewed realistically, the New York problem has too many characteristics of near disaster, to be passed over lightly.

There is an ironical twist which may contain an element of grim humor for cynical conservationists, for flowing by Manhattan Island, is one of the largest rivers in the east, too polluted for human consumption except at its extreme headwater. More fortunate communities have no occasion to gloat, for bacteriologists have been peering anxiously through microscopes at samples from dwindling municipal water supplies in many communities while, in some coastal towns, pumps are sucking from wells pushed dangerously close to the salt line.

Americans will hear more of water conservation in the future.

an understanding, that the take shall not exceed the capacity for replacement.

3. **LEGISLATION** for authority from the people for their officials to act through adequate laws. This calls for a far-seeing body of lawmakers working in sympathy with, and guided by, an informed public. With the balance of voting power resting with the consumer—the two-thirds of our population—conservation legislation measures are of prime importance to the city dweller.

4. **APPROPRIATIONS** to make possible adequate funds for private, state, and federal research projects; for education programs, for the promotion and the execution of programs in already established state and federal conservation agencies, and for enforcing laws. This matter calls for better public understanding and support. Less than 1% of the national budget is allocated for conservation purposes!

5. **COOPERATION** to avoid duplication of effort, to have a continuity of program, to save precious time and money, and to have the special tasks assumed and accomplished, by those most qualified. Only by the working together of all civic organizations, private industry, and state and federal agencies, will permanent conservation be established and maintained.

AMERICAN NATURE STUDY SOCIETY NEWS LETTER

Affiliated with The National Association of Biology Teachers

Affiliated with The National Science Teachers Association

Affiliated with The American Association for the Advancement of Science

Office of the Secretary-Treasurer

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CONSERVATION CARAVANS, CAMPS, AND WORKSHOPS

Sponsored by the State Department of Public Instruction, the Indiana Department of Conservation, and Purdue University, is the fifth annual Conservation Education Camp at Versailles State Park Versailles, Indiana, from June 26 to August 3, 1950. A field laboratory course of six weeks duration in the conservation of natural resources, teaching the interrelationships of land-use and human living. Scholarships are available through the Izaak Walton League of America, conservation clubs, garden clubs etc. Credits are given upon completion of the course. Total cost to Indiana residents, is \$100—\$125 for non-residents. Howard Michaud is Camp Director, Department of Forestry, Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana. Mr. Michaud is a member of the American Nature Study Society.

A workshop in Conservation Education is offered by the New Jersey State Teachers College at Trenton, in cooperation with the Department of Conservation and Economic Development. This workshop will run from July 10-28, 1950 with Professor Victor L. Crowell as the Director.

Tuition will be \$44.00 in addition to a charge of \$40.00 for those who reside on campus. A number of scholarships are available at twenty dollars each for those who wish to live on campus. The organizations providing these scholarships, are, The Garden Club of New Jersey and affiliated clubs, The New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen's clubs and the Demarest Memorial Foundation, Inc. All communications concerning the program should be addressed to Professor Victor L. Crowell, State Teachers College, Trenton 5, New Jersey.

A workshop in interpretive methods is offered by the Yosemite Field School at Yosemite National Park, California. No tuition is charged but each student is expected to pay his living expenses. A \$15.00 fee is asked, to pay for certain supplies. Families are welcomed. For specific information, contact the Camp Directors, Donald Edward McHenry, Park Naturalist, Yosemite National Park, California. This is a seven week

program.

Five Workshops on Resource Use Education will be held in North Carolina this summer. Three at white institutions, and two at negro institutions. All these sessions will be held on college campuses and college credit will be given. A state conference will be held August 10-12 at Chapel Hill, where water conservation, school camping, and outdoor education and the use of audio-visual materials, will be highlighted.

NATURE STUDY AND SCIENCE

By RAYMOND GREGG,
Chief Naturalist Branch
National Capital Parks
Washington, D. C.

Classical philosophers are reputed to have wrangled often and long over terms, definitions, and abstract speculations such as parking space for angels upon pin points. Quibbling over verbal niceties, has not passed away with all our intervening generations of material progress and enlightenment. Today, there are those who decry the teaching of "nature study" in elementary schools. They are quite adamant about teaching only "elementary science". As far as the bystander has been able to see, children who study "science" and those who study "nature", deal with the same solar system, the same air, water, and earth, the same plants and animals, and the same human biology.

Science is generally considered to be the search for knowledge, its systematic organization, and application of the results in the endless process of pushing back the darkness of the unknown. As such, it is the indispensable tool of mankind in the struggle for survival and advancement. Potentially, it is also a weapon capable of destroying humanity, perhaps even the world upon which we live.

As I understand it, nature study is contemplative consideration of material things, animate and inanimate. The student of nature learns through the physical senses, certainly, but he also understands, or seeks to understand, the significance and relationship of all things, each to the other and bears some concern for the commonweal of nature, and man as part of nature. It

could be said that the naturalist learns also with his heart. In brief, nature study is broad ecological approach toward learning, not the compartmentation of it.

There is little profit in arguing the propriety of either approach as the exclusive route to the truth. But somehow, I think of "Nature Study" as a warmer term, one with the subjective tone. In pure science, reason is on the side of detachment, and cold objectivity toward evidences. I am almost convinced that this concept is a major underlying cause of the terrible prospect with which the world is faced today. We have seen tremendous advance in, and growing devotion to cold, objective attainment, while the personal, perspective examination of facts, both in the light of all other facts and in the mirror of conscience, has languished.

We have not properly weighed our technical conquests in relation to humanity's real material and spiritual needs, nor with due regard for the integrity of the natural world itself. To paraphrase James Truslow Adams, our souls need a chance to catch up with our bodies.

PLANS FOR CLEVELAND MEETING

Plans for Cleveland, have been made by the Cooperative Planning Committee, representing American Nature Study Society, National Science Teacher's Association, and the National Association of Biology Teachers. This group met in Washington March 1, to make plans for the annual meeting of these three groups, in Cleveland, December 27-30, 1950, and for the joint sessions sponsored by all three groups. Make your plans now to attend. The American Nature Study Society, was represented by Richard Westwood, Richard Weaver, and Raymond Gregg.

CORRECTION

In the News of Members column of the last issue Wm. J. V. Babcock informs us that the Quincy Massachusetts Board of Education requested the establishment of the Blue Hills Nature Study Laboratory. We hope the Massachusetts Board is duly impressed, nevertheless.



MUSEUMS NEED NOT BE TOMBS!!

BY EDWARD BOARDMAN

Natural History museums suffer a serious handicap. The plant and animal exhibits, are supposed to tell something about life, yet they are sepulchers containing mummified bodies and waxwork images. True, they tell far more about the living than do the cloth-wrapped bodies in Egyptian tombs, or the more life-like waxworks of Madame Tussaud for the museum's mummies and waxworks, are combined in clever ways, to simulate a natural scene, or dissected to show how they function. Still the atmosphere of the grave, clings to the average museum.

If any curator wants to know the effect of his exhibits on the inexperienced person, he has only to take a walk through the halls with a visitor, particularly a child visitor. The visitor admires the accuracy of the models in the dioramas, then he looks hopefully for signs of life.

If he is a child, he begins to worry about how the animal died, or calls nervously to his companion to "Come over here and see the stuffed Indian."

The solution seems to be for museums to show living things as well as preserved specimens and models. This idea is not new, and some of our museums are exploring the fascinating possibilities of bringing life to their exhibits. Dr. Frank Lutz had living insects at the American Museum of Natural History in New York. Community museums such as the Buffalo Museum of Science, have special halls of living things. The Nashville Children's Museum, and at least one art museum the Dayton Art Institute, have felt that living exhibits, maintenance problems that they are, justify the labor involved.

In planning new natural science exhibits at the Rochester Museum of Arts and Sciences, we have been try-

ing to include some of the phenomena of life in our exhibits. A talking Mynah calls attention to the difference in voice mechanisms in birds and in mammals such as ourselves. The Mynah can form words without having to use mobile lips and tongue, or most of the sound apparatus of humans.

Color phases of Australian Paroquets point up distinct genetic differences which may become more vividly portrayed if the birds breed in our exhibit case. Incidentally, between them, these two species of birds represent the insect-fruit eaters, and the seed eaters, thus opening the way for a discussion of bird diets. A not unimportant point in an urban community that thinks all birds eat canary seed and bread crusts. Exotic birds are used because they are cage trained and because there is no need for federal permits.

Birds are the most colorful, but certainly not the most interesting exhibits we have shown in our changing cases. Turtles have lived here, in a deep aquarium. Such different ones as the Soft-shelled, the Painted, and the Spotted Turtle. Living together so that their varied shapes and swimming habits might be compared.

Deer mice now rest against the glass in front, in split hollow limbs. They race and romp along gnarled branches in a dry aquarium, that at other times has housed fish, aquatic salamanders, and snakes. We are able to make quick changes to use new gifts, or for special news interest.

At present, the Rochester Museum has solved the maintenance problem, by limiting the living exhibits to a maximum of five. By carefully designing each of these five, the work of changing exhibits, or of keeping them

clean, is minimized. This requires careful engineering, for such cases cannot be purchased. The attention the displays attract, the nose and finger marks on the glass, prove that they are worth the trouble.

The success of these few exhibits, shows positively, that any museum, or any biology classroom of the future, should have provisions made for living plants and animals. If museum halls are to be departmentalized, there should be some living examples of plants, mammals, birds, reptiles and a fish hall. In some cases, an outside window opening, a conservatory, a court yard, or even more extensive grounds that will permit outdoor trails, should be a part of the interior and exterior architectural plans. If provisions are made in the original plans, it is not difficult or expensive, to have special ventilation to remove animal odors or to introduce fresh air, an outside opening for a demonstration beehive, or a water supply for aquaria and the watering of plants.

Some people object to the display of living things in a museum. They are apt to say that live objects belong only in a zoological garden, or in a conservatory. However, just as the zoo can be greatly improved by adding certain interesting and interpretive models and labels, so can the breath of life be brought to museums, by bringing to them, life itself.

NEWS ON THE LEGISLATIVE FRONT

In regard to the human resources the House Committee on Public Land is convinced that a comprehensive long-range program for the rehabilitation of the Navaho and Hopi Tribes of Indians, is essential.

Appropriations required, will total \$88,570,000. Education, health, roads, soil and water supply, Navaho-Hopi relations, air and transport facilities, are dealt with in the bill and House Committee report.

Forests

Referred to the House Committee on Agriculture, is a bill providing for the acquisition of land and the construction of buildings essential for forest fire control near Missoula, Montana. This is to provide headquarters for fire control, smoke jumpers, air cargo supply bases, and storage facilities. This is a sorely needed project.

NOTES ON OUR MEMBERS

The Eugene Natural History Society, of Eugene, Oregon, had a busy, interesting year. Meetings included exhibitions of Indian artifacts collected by Ben Pruitt; myth exploding talks on snakes; mushroom hunts; field trips to the beach and the mountains, fascinating shell collections from the Bahamas and Florida; rare and unusual pictures of the Canyon de Chelly, Arizona, and a program on falconry. All of these meetings were led by members of the Society, showing a variety of talents and interests.

The Nature Study Society of the the Klamath Region, Oregon, completed its second year of a weekly radio program feature, "Along Nature Trails". They have a weekly feature column in the local newspaper. They saved over 3,000 birds in the botulism outbreak of Lower Klamath Lake, where over 40,000 ducks perished.

They are assisting the country school system by supplying speakers and offering guidance on the school conservation education program. It is rapidly becoming an information center for the community.

The Bangor Bird Conservation Club, Bangor, Maine, was organized in 1914, has a membership of 140. They maintain a small bird sanctuary, also a memorial bird bath in one of the city parks. They send teachers to Audubon Nature Camp at Hog Island, Maine, each year. They are building a collection of film strips and slides, and have a collection of the records of song birds, which are for use in the schools. They have been successful in getting nature books in schools, libraries, and in the Children's Home, in memory of deceased members.

A Membership In Happiness, is offered by one of our new affiliates, the Minneapolis Science Museum Society. This is a community service provided by the self-run adult natural science groups. It co-operates with the Public Library in maintaining free exhibits at the Museum. It is one of the largest centers of adult education and recreation in Minneapolis. It sponsors nature clubs, lectures, motion pictures, short instructive courses for the public, guide tours through the Museum, exhibit loan service, and field trips. A Board of Directors is elected from societies including an Astronomical, a Botanical, and an Aquarium Society, a Bird club, a Mineral and Gem club, a Parent's club. There are four Directors at large.

NEW APPOINTMENTS

Dr. Glidden S. Baldwin has been appointed by President Westwood, to represent the Society on the Co-operative Committee of the AAAS. Miss Ruth Hubbard of Cleveland has been appointed to serve on the local committee as the ANSS representative for the planning of arrangements for the joint meetings scheduled for Cleveland. Raymond Gregg will serve on the Joint Program Committee for these meetings.

Richard Westwood will arrange the program for our individual sessions and welcomes suggestions from the members.

H. Raymond Gregg has been appointed National Membership Chairman for the Society and would like the names of your friends who would be invited to join.

OBSERVATION TOWER

All members formerly receiving *Canadian Nature* have received *Outdoors Illustrated*, starting with the March-April issue. This is a United States edition of *Canadian Nature* containing more material applicable to this country.

Dilly-dallying members who have not paid their dues for 1950, will be dropped from the roster, and will not receive future issues of the News issue.

Idly noted, a second notice, sent to all members in February, brought in 150 stray lambs, including the Editor.

Hannah M. Colcher, of the Cleveland Public Library, returned home from the Jones Beach field trip in search of Snowy Owls, to discover one Snowy Owl perched on the Public Library, and two more on a piling down at the lake front.

VACATIONISTS!

Joseph G. Wampler, archaeologist-mountaineer, 1940 Hearst Avenue, Berkeley, California, has organized two trips along the Muir Trail beginning July 16 and extending into September. You can walk or ride, and can join the group any part of the four weeks.

SIERRA CLUB URGES ACTION

At a recent meeting of the Board of Directors of the Sierra Club, it was the unanimous decision of the board to the unanimous decision of the board to join other conservation groups throughout the United States, in urging Congress to follow up the excellent Congressional investigation of wilderness areas, by enacting some of the evident conclusions into law.

Many forest administrators agree, that stronger legal basis for protection of the concept of wilderness, is essential. The pressure against the wilderness is constantly increasing.

The Sierra Club stresses the need for legislative authority that will either provide for establishment and maintenance of areas, or possibly by action of the President similar to his Antiquities Act.

All bills should be carefully studied by every conservation group before they are submitted on the floor of Congress.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR SUMMER CAMPS

Two or three \$25.00 scholarships for summer camps, workshops, courses or caravans accenting conservation and nature study, are available to members and students recommended by members. Contact Secretary-Treasurer Richard L. Weaver, P.O. Box 1078, Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

NEWS LETTER FILM EDITOR

James A. Fowler, of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, Penna. has accepted the task of Film Editor for the News Letter.

Many members of the Society must use films often in their daily work. Mr. Fowler would greatly appreciate your evaluations and suggestions. You may reach Mr. Fowler at the Academy, Nineteenth and the Parkway, Philadelphia 3, Pa.

DO YOU KNOW . . .

That the Everglades National Park, at Miami, Florida is the newest of the Federal preserves?

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